

STATINTL

# Another Break In Spy World's Tangled Web

By Don Cook

Of The Herald Tribune Staff

PARIS.

French security authorities Tuesday arrested a naval reservist of Polish origin as a spy working for Russia, and in doing so added new mystery to the affair of executed Soviet spy Col. Oleg V. Penkovsky.

The government announcement said Jean Pikus, 35, a non-commissioned naval reservist and a clerk at Orly Airport, had admitted giving secrets to the Soviet Union. He is formally charged with endangering the security of the state and attempting to divulge military secrets to a foreign power.

The announcement said the arrest was "in connection with the Penkovsky case," but the only immediate link between the two cases is Col. Vassili Petrochenko, head of the Russian Scientific Research Committee of which Col. Penkovsky was a member.

The French said that Col. Petrochenko, born in Paris from 1956 to 1957, was an undiscovered spy and that his identity was established

through photos taken by security officers at the time.

The French say Col. Petrochenko's real name and his job were not known until the Penkovsky trial earlier this month. The implication is that Col. Petrochenko made first contacts to organize a spy ring of which Pikus was a member, and that Col. Penkovsky then carried on the contacts during his visits to Paris.

It was during these visits that Penkovsky was also meeting Britisher Greville Wynne and passing secrets to the West. The Colonel was convicted and executed for this and Wynne was sentenced to eight years confinement.

Where all this leaves the Soviet spy apparatus is uncertain. Only last week end, the Herald Tribune reported that top Russian intelligence officials were being recalled to Moscow as a result of revelations that Col. Penkovsky was a double agent, giving secrets to the West while posing as a Soviet spy.

Implications of Col. Penkovsky's favored position among a group of dissident, but powerful Soviet military leaders also remain unresolved.